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M.A.C.E. JOURNAL

"Devoted Exclusively To The Atari Computer User"



Published by the Michigan Atari Computer Enthusiasts

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Tom Sturza

Over the past few months I have noticed an improvement in how our User Group is functioning! In my column this month I would like to mention just a few of the "good" things I am seeing.

The quality of the M.A.C.E. Journal is once more something that we all can be very proud of! Let us give credit to R. Charles Sibthorpe, Journal Editor, and to all those people who have contributed their time and/or articles.

Thanks to our advertisers - past and present, for their support. Their support allows us to publish a Journal containing at least 20 pages each month.

The General Meetings are once more worth attending! Chris Samuels, Meeting Coordinator, is on the job organizing and preparing for each month's meeting.

The Disk Library is improving, both in additional contributions and in a long overdue reorganization. This is a very big job (as all past and present Disk Librarians can verify) and your continued support through purchases is appreciated.

A special thank you to our members and elected officers - who through their membership and participation, allow M.A.C.E. to continue as a functioning entity. Membership has leveled off at around 500 families worldwide (not a small number by any means).

The 'TARICON II Special Interest Group (SIG) is working hard on the plans for our ATARI only convention. The list of volunteers is impressive and the amount of work to be accomplished is equally impressive. There is always room for additional support. If you can help in any way, please contact Barb Franczyk, Convention Manager.

The ST (SIG) is the final "good" thing that I wish to mention. This group is growing by leaps and bounds! And as you will all see in the very near future,

the ST'ers will soon be contributing more to the User Group as a whole. Demos, articles and a ST disk library are just a few of the things that are being prepared.

One thing we must do is begin to support the ST at a higher level within our User Group. It is time for M.A.C.E. to purchase a ST for use at SIG and General Meetings. To this end, I have discussed with the Executive Board the need to finance such a purchase.

We will be "Raffling" off some of our surplus equipment at the January, 1987 General Meeting. Each item will have a specific number of tickets allocated to it, that can be purchased for \$1. Let me emphasize that M.A.C.E. is not trying to make a profit in the selling off of this equipment. We are only trying to raise funds to purchase ST equipment.

If you have already helped the User Group, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Please continue to do so. If you wish to help, please let us know. All help is greatly appreciated and much needed!



MACE JOURNAL

December 1986
Volume 6, No. 11

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DISK SUBMISSIONS

Bring disk to the monthly general meeting or send it to: MACE, PO Box 2785, Southfield MI 48037 Attn: Disk Librarian.

JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS

Upload to any MACE BBS or send directly to MACE. Journal submissions should include text and program listings on disk and paper. Submissions will be returned if stamped, self-addressed mailer is supplied and will be handled with reasonable care. However, publisher assumes no responsibility for return or safety of artwork, photographs, or manuscripts.

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MORE NEWSLETTERS

by Gordon Totty

Another month, another pack of newsletters from other Atari groups around the country ... or world. Jim Kennedy gave me another batch of reading material and I was very surprised to find 14 newsletters that I hadn't seen in the last batch. This brings the total to 28, if I have counted correctly, and I don't even know if I have seen them all yet. There are a lot of Atari groups out there. Can you imagine the strength of a national Atari user group? Was Antic trying to assemble something WUNderful like that? As my aunt used to say, "Golly, gee!"

The most interesting of the new batch for me was from Australia, from MACE, that is the Melbourne Atari Computer Enthusiasts. I copied the best looking program out of this journal (the Australian Atari Gazette) and submitted it separately to Charles Sibthorpe. If it is not too long, you will have seen it elsewhere, in this or another issue.

Just so you don't feel all alone, here's another list of user groups and newsletters:

CONTACT, The Atlanta Atari Users' Group, Stone Mountain, GA. 8 pages.

I thought I had the only 1050 in the world that was noisy, but I don't. My first drive was an Indus and it is very quiet. Then I added a 1050, and it makes a grinding noise. According to a person who calls him/herself RUM-RUNNER, "The 1050 is so loud, you could be making popcorn in the kitchen and hear a 1050 formatting a disk." Amen. According to CONTACT the newer 1050 drives are quiet.

THE RAM GAZETTE, Chy-Wy-'Tari, Cheyenne, WY. 9 pages.

Humor, make that Western humor, and biographies were the main content. The humor was pretty good, especially a story about an imaginary joint venture between Atari and Coleman Western to bring out a computer for campers that runs on white gas. As for the biographies, I didn't

know that Jack Tramiel survived two concentration camps, was born in Poland, only went through the fifth grade...

A/BUG IN YOUR PROGRAMMING, Atari/Berks Users Group, Reading, PA. 7 half pages. Membership total of over 50, and 14 members were at their last meeting. Tell you what: If MACE gets down to 50 members, I'll be willing to keep it going. This month they reported on a copy protection scheme called a "worm", a program that damages files when it detects illegally copied software. Wouldn't that be a hoot!

NOAUG, New Orleans Atari Users' Group, Harahan, LA. 5 pages.

New groups are still being formed. This one is only two years old.

RIACE, Rhode Island Atari Computer Enthusiasts, East Providence, RI. 5 pages.

Yes, Virginia, there are enough Atari users in Rhode Island to support a user group and newsletter. A reasonably informed source writes a monthly tutorial column called, "PARLEZ-VOUS PASCAL?". Was Pascal French, perchance?

P.A.C.E. WORLD, Peninsula Atari Computer Enthusiasts of Virginia, Hampton, VA. 8 purple pages (no foolin'), no purple prose.

PACE has 88 members. They print questions for the "answer man" but do not print the answers. (Reminds me of letters I once wrote to Atari and Mannesmann Tally.) They also print game scores. Person with the initials JJC has 306,690 logged as the high PacMan score (my best is half that) and the same person did 307,742 on Centipede. (My best is about a tenth of that; Centipede ties my guts in knots and makes my hair fall out! I get so tense, I almost cannot stand it.)

RAM JAM II, Atari Computer Club of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City, OK. 15 half pages.

Fellow down there has built himself a 1,088K XE. What do you do with it? Heat your house? He reports that another fellow in Mass. built one too. He wonders why the 1040ST only has 1,024K-bytes of RAM. Like user newsletters all over, this one includes a plea to the members to write something and submit it.

MID MICHIGAN ATARI MAGAZINE, published by C.H.A.O.S., Capitol Hill Atari Owners Society, East Lansing, MI (Go Green!). 27 pages plus an eight page enclosure listing the disk library.

This looked to me like a very well organized, well done journal. The best articles, to me, were a basic introduction to telecommunications and an article for beginners about DOS. At the end of the second article the author noted that if anyone found the work too basic they should remember that the author is really simple-minded at heart. Description fits me, but what's the heart got to do with it?

BAY AREA ATARI USERS GROUP Newsletter, Palo Alto, CA. 19 green pages. [Hey, editor, do print shops give discounts on colored paper? Why else print on other than good old white paper with its great contrast?]

Lot of coverage of the ST in this newsletter. Well, Gordon, tell us about it. The response to that imperative is that because I don't own an ST (yet) I don't invest a lot of my time in reading about them in any depth. Sorry if I'm letting you ST'ers down, but maybe one of you should be writing for the Journal, too. Oh the benefits of living near Silicon Valley! Atari dumped a lot of stuff out of their warehouse over the last year or so and the locals got a lot of good buys.

runes, Midwest Atari Group, Iowa Chapter (MAGIC), Ames, IA. 12 half pages.

You are probably wondering, too, but save yourself a trip to the dictionary. Here's what mine said: "rune n. 1. One of the letters of an alphabet used by ancient Germanic peoples ... 2. Any poem, riddle, or the like written in runic characters [Aha! Like a program.] 3. Any

occult characters. [Hmmm. Like our members?] 4. A Finnish poem or canto." You can look up canto yourself; I don't care. No telling what you are going to learn around here, is there? MAGIC listened to a glowing report of the club's financial health recently. Could we tap them for a loan?

KC-ACE, (you figure it out; they didn't tell), Shawnee Mission, KS. 5 very well printed pages.

Not much here. They did print, "Low Cost Clock for the Atari ST" which was translated from a West German users group newsletter.

M*O*M, Micros of Monmouth, Englishtown, NJ. 11 pages.

Let other computer owners play with acronyms to form a club called Apple Pie, Atari owners have MOM! Actually, this newsletter did include a little IBM and Apple news. MS-DOS may come to the ST, but it could cost as much as \$500 to get there. On the other hand, you can get a window program for the 8-bit machines for about \$20 that will access nine windows at one time. It is called "SCREENS" and comes from The Soft Cellar, P.O. Box 16393, Rochester, NY 14616. Thank you Irwin Kaplan for those items. MOM also published a great review of "STAR FLEET 1, The War Begins" from CYGNUS. This is a simulation, much in the spirit of Star Trek, that comes with a 100 page manual. I may have to buy this one, and soon, thanks to Joe Petrillo's great review.

THE ACCESS KEY, Atari Computer Club Encompassing Suburban Sacramento, Sacramento, CA. 11 pages.

Jim Dysle wrote this in "Memoirs of a Computer Junkie" referring to the first time he sat down at a home computer: "Within the next hour, I managed to print my name to the screen. At that moment, my wife became a computer widow.

"The rest of the evening was mostly 'wow', 'holy cow' and other clever expressions. Of course, every time I learned something new, I dragged my wife to the computer. She praised her 'brilliant' husband until she suddenly took ill and retired for the evening.

"For the next 72 hours, I wasted about

eight hours on sleep."

What memories that brought back! Wow!
Holy cow!

Another writer for The Access Key is Bob Haynes, who does a regular column titled, "Thinking About Computers". In an earlier issue Bob raised the question why it seemed that home computers were largely enjoyed by men more than women. Did you ever notice that? How many MACE members are men? How many women? In Bob's latest column he reviewed "Understanding Media" by H. Marshall McLuhan.

VORTEX

```
10 REM *** VORTEX ***
12 REM *** BY MARK PRICE - SBACE ***
14 REM VOLUME 5 NUMBER 8
16 REM VORTEX CREATES A HYPNOTIC PATTERN
ON THE SCREEN. THE PICTURE SEEMS
18 REM TO BE GOING AWAY FROM YOU AS IT
TRIES TO DRAW YOU INTO THE SCREEN.
20 REM JUST TYPE IT IN AND RUN.
200 GRAPHICS 23:SETCOLOR 4,6,4
210 FOR I=1536 TO 1565:READ J:POKE
I,J:NEXT I
212 REM *** INSTALL DLI ROUTINE ***
220 J=PEEK(560)+256*PEEK(561)
222 REM *** SET DLI FLAGS ON ALL
DISPLAYLINES ***
230 POKE J+3,205
240 FOR I=J+6 TO J+99:POKE I,141:NEXT I
250 POKE 512,0:POKE 513,6:POKE 54286,192
252 REM *** ENABLE THE DLI ROUTINE ***
299 REM *** PLOT CONTROL ***
300 COLOR 1:GOSUB 400:REM *** PLOT X ON
***
310 COLOR 0:GOSUB 400:GOTO 300
312 REM *** PLOT X OFF AND CYCLE BACK ***
399 REM *** PLOT CYCLE ***
400 POKE 77,128:FOR I=79 TO 0 STEP -1
410 PLOT 80,47:DRAWTO 159-I,1
420 PLOT 79,48:DRAWTO I,95
430 PLOT 79,47:DRAWTO I,1
440 PLOT 80,48:DRAWTO 159-I,95
450 NEXT I:RETURN
499 REM *** DATA FOR DLI ***
500 DATA 72,173,11,212,201,63,144,9
510 DATA 173,0,210,101,20,208,7,240
520 DATA 5,173,0,210,229,20,141,10
530 DATA 212,141,22,208,104,64
```

CYLINDER

```
5 REM CYLINDER FROM SBACE VOL 5 NO 8
10 GRAPHICS 9
11 REM * TRY GRAPHICS 11 *
15 SETCOLOR 4,RND(16),0
20 FOR Y=55 TO 0 STEP -10
30 FOR X=0 TO 24
40 C=X
41 IF X>11 THEN C=24-X
45 C=C+3
50 Z=Y+X
55 D=INT(SQR(144-(X-12)*(X-12)))/2
57 COLOR 15-C
58 PLOT Z,Y+7+D
60 DRAWTO Z,Y+7-D
61 REM * CHANGE -D TO +D *
70 COLOR C
80 DRAWTO Z,180-Y+D
180 NEXT X
190 NEXT Y
200 GOTO 15
```



By Tom Sturza

M.A.C.E. often receives requests for assistance from our members. A member in Massachusetts recently wrote us concerning a Graphics 0 Screen Dump program that he owned. He couldn't get the program to dump to his printer correctly.

The program listed below is a modified version of the program he mailed to us. It contains a very simple version of a Graphics 0 Screen Dump routine. It was not intended that this program handle any characters other than A-Z, 0-9 and punctuation characters.

WPROGRAM LISTINGW

```

10 REM SAMPLE OF GRAPHICS 0
20 REM PROGRAM WITH A SCREEN
30 REM DUMP ROUTINE BUILT IN
40 REM
50 DIM STRING$(41)
100 GOSUB 32010:REM - GO OPEN #5
200 FOR Z=1 TO 11
300 PRINT " THIS IS A TEST OF THE SCREEN
DUMP PGM."
400 PRINT " THIS IS OCCURRENCE #";Z
500 NEXT Z
600 GOSUB 32040:REM - GO EXECUTE SCREEN
DUMP LOGIC
700 GOSUB 32200:REM - GO CLOSE #5
800 POKE 82,1:REM RESET LEFT MARGIN
900 POSITION 0,0:? CHR$(125)
1000 END
31999 REM
32000 REM - COPY SCREEN TO PRINTER
32001 REM
32002 REM - "OPEN" CLEARS THE SCREEN
32003 REM - DO THIS EARLY IN YOUR PROGRAM
32004 REM - USE "GOSUB 32010" FOR THIS.
32005 REM
32010 POKE 82,0:POKE 83,39:REM SET LEFT
AND RIGHT MARGINS FOR MONITOR OR TV
32020 OPEN #5,4,0,"S:"
32030 RETURN

```

```

32031 REM
32032 REM - USE "GOSUB 32040" TO LPRINT
32033 REM - FROM THE SCREEN.
32034 REM
32040 FOR Y=0 TO 23
32050 FOR X=0 TO 39
32060 POSITION X,Y
32070 GET #5,G
32080 STRING$(X+1)=CHR$(G):REM STORE EACH
CHARACTER IN STRING$
32090 NEXT X
32100 TRAP 32300:REM TRAP FOR PRINTER NOT
ON OR READY
32110 LPRINT STRING$:REM - PRINT 1 LINE
32120 NEXT Y
32130 RETURN
32196 REM
32197 REM - CLOSE CHANNEL TO SCREEN
32198 REM - USE "GOSUB 32200" TO CLOSE
CHANNEL #5
32199 REM
32200 CLOSE #5
32210 RETURN
32300 ? CHR$(125):POKE 752,1:POSITION
5,10
32310 ? " ----> PRINTER NOT ON <----"
32320 FOR Z=1 TO 500:NEXT Z
32330 POSITION 5,12
32340 ? " ----> TURN PRINTER ON <----"
32350 ? :? " PRESS <RETURN> TO
CONTINUE"
32360 OPEN #1,4,0,"K:"
32370 GET #1,R
32380 IF R=155 THEN 32400
32390 GOTO 32370
32400 CLOSE #1
32410 ? CHR$(125)
32420 GOTO 200

```



MICHIGAN ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

Adopted September 15, 1981. Amended on May 17, 1984, July 16, 1985 and October 21, 1986.

** PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION **

It shall be the purpose of the Michigan Atari Computer Enthusiasts (hereafter called MACE, or the Club) to promote an interexchange of ideas and information concerning ATARI personal computers.

A. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

There shall be no requirements for membership in MACE other than an active interest in ATARI computers.

The Club, by a (simple) majority vote of those members present at a general membership meeting, may levy upon the entire membership such dues or assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the conduct of the Club's business. Every member must pay these assessments when due, in order to retain all of the rights and privileges of membership in MACE.

Since MACE membership includes all immediate family members, all references to voting in this Constitution allow for ONE vote per membership.

B. ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

Section 1: The Executive Board (E.B.) shall be the chief administrative body of MACE.

A. Voting E.B. members shall be:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Corresponding Secretary
4. Recording Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Journal Editor
7. Meeting Coordinator
8. Disk Librarian
9. Membership Chairman
10. Convention Manager

B. Members ex-officio shall be:

1. The chairperson of any committee
2. Members of the previous year's Board

C. Each voting member of the E.B. shall have one vote. The E.B. shall determine its own rules and procedures.

Section 2: The E.B. shall organize, plan and administer Club activities. The E.B. shall carry out the business of the Club between monthly general membership meetings. Decisions made by the E.B. can be over-ruled by a (simple) majority vote, of those members present at a general membership meeting.

Section 3: The President and/or Treasurer may authorize expenditures of Club money up to \$100 per month. The E.B. as a whole, may authorize individual expenditures of up to \$500 per month. Any expenditures of Club funds above \$500 in any month, must be authorized by a majority vote of the membership attending a monthly general meeting. Exceptions to the above rule are the costs of printing and mailing the Journal and the paying of the rental for the general meeting hall.

Section 4: The Club, by a (simple) majority vote of those members present at any general membership meeting, may establish provisional or standing committees to expedite the management of Club activities. Each committee shall determine its own rules of procedure and membership, govern its own affairs and activities, and elect a chairperson and other officials as deemed necessary.

Section 5: All proceedings, not covered in this constitution or bylaws, shall be governed by the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order. The Executive Board shall determine all questions of constitutionality arising within the Club, and interpret all unclear clauses of this constitution, bylaws, and all Club resolutions.

Section 6: Announcement of a required vote or an election shall be printed in the Journal at least one month prior to the general meeting.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The elected officers of MACE shall be:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Corresponding Secretary
4. Recording Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Journal Editor
7. Meeting Coordinator
8. Disk Librarian
9. Membership Chairman
10. Convention Manager

Section 2: Officers shall be elected for a term of one year, by a ballot of those members present at the September general membership meeting. For purposes of these elections, a quorum will be those members present, with paid memberships.

Section 3: All M.A.C.E. officers shall be at least 18 years of age when elected to office. [Officers often sign contracts for M.A.C.E. and one must be 18 years of age to do so in Michigan.]

Nominations shall be open to all MACE members. In all elections, winners shall be determined by simple majority. If there is no winner on the first ballot, the name of the candidate with the least number of votes shall be withdrawn, and a second ballot is taken. This process shall be repeated until one candidate achieves a simple majority of the vote.

Vacancies occurring between elections shall be filled by special election, to be held at the first meeting following the creation of the vacancy (where there is a candidate for the vacant position).

D. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President shall preside at all general membership meetings, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. The President shall enforce observance of the Constitution and Bylaws, and perform the customary duties of the office, as stated

in the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President, in the absence of the latter, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and coordinate inter-committee activities. In addition, the Vice-President shall function as Advertising Manager of the Journal.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for conducting Club business via the mails. He/She shall carry on all Club correspondence, and be responsible for the preparation of documents on the Club's behalf. He/She shall function as chief communications officer, and shall be responsible for picking up and distributing the mail from the Club P.O. Box.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Club. His/Her minutes shall be submitted to the membership for approval at each succeeding general meeting.

The Treasurer shall carry out the Club's financial duties, and keep an accurate account of each transaction, and of the Club's current financial status, as well as, assist in the process of corporate financial reporting.

The Journal Editor shall be responsible for the production of the monthly newsletter, and any other Club publication. (The Vice-President shall act as Advertising Manager for the Journal.)

The Meeting Coordinator shall be responsible for seeing that a suitable meeting place is available for the general membership meetings, for planning and organizing the programs for these meetings, and for seeing that sufficient tables and chairs are available each month.

The Disk Librarian shall be responsible for maintaining the Public Domain disk library and related documentation, as well as, copying and distributing library disks. He/She shall sell these disks to MACE members ONLY.

The Membership Chairman shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of who the Club's members are, when their memberships expire and other member data. He/She shall also print the mailing labels for each month's general membership meeting.

Convention Manager: He/she shall be responsible for coordinating all activities necessary for the planning and holding of any M.A.C.E. sponsored conventions (ie. TARICON). He/she will be chairperson for a Convention SIG, that would handle all matters concerning said conventions.

Since M.A.C.E. does not sponsor such events on a yearly basis, this officer position would only exist after the membership has voted to sponsor the event. The office of Convention Manager would be removed from the board of directors 60 days following the completion of a convention.

E. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended by a vote of 2/3 of the members present at a general membership meeting.

F. UNMENTIONED POWERS

All powers, privileges, rights and duties not otherwise delegated by this constitution, shall be reserved for the general membership of this Club.

G. OFFICER COMPENSATION

M.A.C.E. officers shall be compensated by the renewal of their M.A.C.E. membership, during their term of office. When it is time for their membership renewal, their membership will be extended for one additional year at no charge.

Any officer not serving a full year, will receive free membership equal to the number of month's serve(d) as an officer.

ST SIG MINUTES

by Richard L. Staff

The ST SIG is a M.A.C.E. Special Interest Group for the 16-bit Atari ST computers. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Southfield Civic Center. The first half hour is usually general discussion and social time. There will be a one dollar (\$1.00) cover charge to offset room rental.

The September 2nd meeting began with the steering committee report which mapped out the future direction of ST SIG meetings, both in the structure and the topics of meetings. ST SIG Meeting Structure - 1/4 hour introduction period, 3/4 hour main topic(s), 1/2 hour retailer presentation and disk library sales, and 1/2 hour wrapup. These are rough estimates of use and are likely to vary from meeting to meeting.

Topics for ST SIG meetings - November '86 titled "LET'S START WORKING!" Word processing will be covered. Home SIG's will also be discussed. December '86 titled "CAN WE TALK?" will focus on telecommunications; modems, software, costs/sources, options and uses. September 2nd's main topic was "NEW BEGINNINGS" an orientation to the GEM desktop environment.

The October 7th meeting followed the pattern set in the September meeting. The main topic was "FILES, FOLDERS and WHAT IS IT's" an orientation to how the Tramiel Operating System (TOS) manages files on the disk (Guess what? TOS is an MS-DOS clone!).

In The Future - "LET'S UPGRADE!" looks at the costs, advantages, and options for upgrading, hopefully covering disk drives (single and double sided, hard drives, and IBM compatible 5 1/4 inch drives). "LET'S PLAY!" covers entertainment uses of the ST. "STOP THIEF!" looks at software piracy and the related issues that surround this controversial topic.

PS: Expect the unexpected!!!



NEW PRODUCTS

Compiled by Jim Kennedy

When contacting any of the following companies, PLEASE tell them you saw them in the MACE Journal. It will help us get information and possibly review copies. Thank you.

-----8 & 16 Bit-----

Lynkers Inc.
10706 Weaver Ave.
No. 3 South El Monte, CA 91733
(818) 579-1224, (818) 579-1225

These people sell modems for different computers at lower than retail prices. They are a factory direct company owned by a company in Taiwan, called "Ever Bright". One 300bps modem for the 8-bit Atari costs \$50, while two 1200bps (8 or 16 bit compatible) modems cost around \$200.

-----8 Bit-----

"POWERSTAR" (graphic adventure)
Pandora Software, Inc.
177 Carlton Lane
North Andover, MA 01845
(617) 681-8440
\$34.95 (Cartridge)

This is a joystick or keyboard graphic adventure game played with or w/out a disk drive. MACE has received a demo. from Pandora. Contact MACE first, before ordering.

-----16 Bit-----

"ST Guide" (index)
Alan R. Fisher & Edith L. Kreimeyer
8701 Supreme CT., NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
\$18.00/year.

Alan is a member of "The Albuquerque Atari Computer Enthusiasts". He is selling an index to publications carrying articles or programs for the ST. Included are; Analog, Antic, Atari Explorer, Byte, Compute!, Compute!'s Atari ST, Consumer Reports, Current

Notes, and STart. You may purchase separate issues for \$1.50/each.

"ST Applications" (magazine)
PO Box 968
Forestville, CA 95436

This is a magazine devoted to the Atari 520/1040ST users. It has reviews on programs, Departments on 'C', Logo, Forth, BASIC and "Ask Ed". A nice looking magazine, we just received their vol. 2, #8, Sept. '86 issue. Contact the ST-SIG before subscribing.

"TechMate" (Chess game)
Szabo Software
P.O. Box 623
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
\$49.95 (Version 1.1)

The newest version (1.1) is now ready for release. TechMate is a Chess game for either monochrome or color ST's. Features include; move counter, sound effects, and switch sides or change clock settings in mid-game.

"Magic Sac" (Macintosh emulator)
Data Pacific, Inc.
609 East Speer Blvd.
Denver, CO 80203-4240
(303) 733-8158
\$149.95 (Cartridge, cable, software)

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YEMACYB

by William Schlick

At a recent MACE meeting RC Sibthorpe came up to me and said, "YEMACYB". Not wishing to offend our new editor I suppressed an urge to say, "BLESS YOU!". "YEMACYB", he said again presenting me with the software package, please take a look at it and write a review.

YEMACYB is produced by ELECTRONICAL SOFTWARE, PO box 8035 Rochester, MI 48063. It is a system for creating color hardcopy printouts on standard dot matrix printers such as, C. ITOH 8510B PROWRITER, EPSON MX-80 FX-80, STAR GEMINI 10X/15X, SG-10/15, with no special hardware other than four color ribbons for your respective printer. If you have ever had a great looking picture file produced with a pad, light pen, micropainter, or digitizer program, or just that special bulletin board (BBS) download, then YEMACYB is for you! The YEMACYB disk is auto booting and once the program has loaded into the ATARI, the YEMACYB disk can be removed. All further menu driven actions are performed on the disk(s) which contain your picture files. You may view the picture file disk directory, select and load the picture file you wish to work on. The picture file selected will be displayed on you monitor where through other menu selections you are free to change the default and even single or multiple line colors. In graphics mode 7 you have 1-96 lines and in graphics mode 7+ you have 1-196 lines that make up your picture. Since each line may be made up of four colors, you have the ability with menu control to make 368 (4*96) for graphics 7 and 768 (4*196) color changes! If you prefer monochrome (one color) picture can also be printed in the color ribbon you select.

Once you have made the the color choices you wish the next set is color analysis by YEMACYB to determine the composition of the display. As you may

have guessed by using four different ribbons you will be making four printing passes over the same paper. Each pass will print with the color ribbon you select, and only when you are ready. The analysis automatically separates the picture on the screen into 4 composite pieces not unlike jig saw puzzle pieces. You simply install the color ribbon of your choice, print the first composite, and repeat for second, third and fourth composites. As each print pass is made your picture assumes the colors you designed for it. After the fourth pass you will be looking at a vibrant multicolor picture.

In addition to the YEMACYB program, ELECTRONICAL SOFTWARE has included seven stand alone basis programs that will assist you in producing mirror and window graphics, DLI file converter, and graphics editor and other excellent aids.

YEMACYB like most good programs is easy to use for everyone yet provides the means by which the user can do some remarkable displays and printouts using standard ATARI computers and dot matrix printers. You need any 8-bit ATARI with 48K of memory, disk drive and standard dot matrix printer.

For me it was an excellent method to make my ATARI picture files come to life without special hardware or training. YEMACYB is priced at \$19.95, you can get it at SECTOR ONE who also carry color ribbons, call them for your printer requirements. So now when you ask how can I get full color hardcopy prints with my ATARI say "YEMACYB", "BLESS YOU!"

Greetings
of the
Season



COMMAND CORNER

By Michael L. Clayton

This installment of Command Corner will focus on the structure, format, and use of the ATARI BASIC USR function, the machine language interface contained within ATARI BASIC. The three short machine language subroutines, which are used below to demonstrate the USR function, may be freely used within your own programs to enhance performance.

The general format of the USR statement is:

```
VARIABLE=USR(ADDRESS).
```

A statement of this format contained in a BASIC program will cause the transfer of program execution to the machine language routine starting at memory location ADDRESS. This machine language program must be a valid 6502 subroutine, that is, the program must end with a RTS byte ("return from subroutine", which is 96 decimal or \$60 hexadecimal), in order to allow BASIC to regain control of the processor. In normal usage, the left side of a USR function statement must be an undimensioned numeric variable. The values inside the parentheses, also known as the parameters, may be any positive integer less than 65536, or a numeric variable within this range, or a function which evaluates to numeric data (such as ADR(CODE\$), LEN(X\$), INT(A*B), etc.). There are other considerations internal to the called machine language subroutine that have to be satisfied for a USR call to work properly. A thorough examination of those requirements is best left for a machine or assembly language discussion.

Any BASIC program can pass information directly to a machine language subroutine by using the optional parameter list capability of the USR function. The machine language subroutine must be programmed to accept the information. An example of such a statement looks like this:

```
X=USR(ADDRESS,V1,V2,V3).
```

Another valid example:

```
A=USR(ADR(CODE$),12,LEN(TEXT$),0,  
0,PEEK(712)/16,X,Y).
```

The first parameter in every case is the memory address of the called machine language subroutine.

The machine language subroutine can also pass data directly into a BASIC variable through the USR function if it is programmed to do so. The variable on the left side of the USR statement, often called the output variable, is always reassigned a value whenever the USR function is used. If the called subroutine does not explicitly assign a value to the output variable, then the routine's memory address is left as the output value. The USR routines that are used in the examples below all return values in the output variable, unlike the RAMCOPY USR routine presented in the last column which did not need to use the output variable capability.

The primary reason for utilizing machine language from within a high level language is usually because it is the best way to get the job done. The examples below demonstrate a usage of machine language subroutines to achieve better results than using BASIC alone.

ATARI BASIC lacks the bit level AND, OR, and EOR (exclusive or) functions that exist in the machine language. I will assume that you are familiar with these fundamental binary logical operations and have missed their inclusion in the language. ATARI BASIC does have the AND and OR functions, but they work on the variable level, not the bit level. These BASIC functions always evaluate to one or zero (which can also mean true or false, yes or no, or on or off). These BASIC AND and OR functions are very useful as switches and controls but they don't do diddly squat if you need the values of bits 4 and 5 of memory location 53254.

In the short demonstration program listed below, the three strings A\$, O\$, and E\$ contain machine language subroutines (AND, OR, and EOR respectively) to be accessed by the BASIC program through the USR function. The functions perform the indicated bitwise logical operations on the two parameters and return the resultant value in the output variable. Both the input and output parameters are words. (Word is a term describing a 16 bit value, corresponding to the term byte for an 8 bit value). The program prompts for input of two values, then displays the two input numbers and the results from the AND, OR, and EOR functions in binary and decimal notation.

PROGRAM LISTING

```

10 REM COMMAND CORNER PART 2
20 REM WRITTEN BY M.L. CLAYTON FOR
   M.A.C.E. JOURNAL
30 REM DEMO OF THE AND, OR, & EOR USR
   FUNCTIONS.
35 REM LINES WITH LINE NUMBERS ENDING IN
   FIVE MAY BE OMITTED. NOTE!! LOOK AT
   LINE 1000 IF YOU HAVEN'T YET DONE SO.
40 DIM A$(19),O$(19),E$(19)
45 REM ALLOCATED THE STRINGS THAT WILL
   HOLD THE ML ROUTINES. A$==>AND
   O$==>OR   E$==>EOR (EXCLUSIVE OR).
50 REM LINE TO BE REPLACED--SEE LINE
   1000
55 REM ASSIGNED THE THREE SUBROUTINES TO
   THE ALLOCATED STRING BUFFERS.
60 GRAPHICS 1:SETCOLOR 2,0,0:?"and";
   CHR$(12);" or";CHR$(12);" ";CHR$(6);
   " eor demo";CHR$(14);
65 REM INITIALIZED LARGE TEXT GRAPHICS
   WITH BLACK TEXT WINDOW. PRINTED TITLE
70 TRAP 70:?"CHR$(125);"INPUT FIRST OF
   TWO WORD VALUES BELOW. =====>";:INPUT W1
75 REM SET IF ERROR CONDITION DETECT,
   THEN GOTO LINE 70. CLEARED TEXT
   WINDOW AND PRINTED PROMPT. WAITS FOR
   INPUT.
80 W1=INT(W1):IF W1<0 OR W1>65535 THEN 70
85 REM PERFORMED RANGE CHECKING ON THE
   INPUT AFTER CONVERSION TO INTEGER. IF
   AN INVALID CONDITION THEN RE-PROMPT.
90 ? #6;"FIRST VALUE  =";W1:?" #6;,"

```

```

"      ":WORD=W1:GOSUB 180
95 REM PRINT TO THE UPPER SCREEN THE
   INPUT VALUE IN DECIMAL AND IN BITS
100 TRAP 100:?"CHR$(125);"INPUT SECOND
   OF TWO WORD VALUES BELOW.=====>";:INPUT
   W2
105 REM SET IF ERROR CONDITION DETECT,
   THEN GOTO LINE 100. CLEARED TEXT
   WINDOW AND PRINTED PROMPT. WAITS FOR
   INPUT
110 W2=INT(W2):IF W2<0 OR W2>65535 THEN
   100
115 REM PERFORMED RANGE CHECKING ON THE
   INPUT AFTER CONVERSION TO INTEGER.
   IF AN INVALID CONDITION THEN RE-
   PROMPT.
120 ? CHR$(125):?" #6;"SECOND VALUE  =";
   W2:?" #6;,"      ":WORD=W2:GOSUB 180:
   POSITION 0,8:?" #6;"-----
   ---";
125 REM PRINTED TO THE UPPER SCREEN THE
   2ND INPUT VALUE IN DECIMAL AND IN
   BITS, THEN DREW A DELIMITER.
130 W1AW2=USR(ADR(A$),W1,W2): W1OW2=
   USR(ADR (O$),W1,W2):W1EW2= USR(ADR(E$),
   W1,W2)
135 REM TWO INPUT VALUES W1 & W2 WERE
   PASSED INTO THE 3 USR FUNCTIONS. THE
   3 OUTPUT VARIABLES WERE INITIALIZED.
140 ? #6;"and RESULT  =";W1AW2:?" #6;,"
   "      ":WORD=W1AW2:GOSUB 180
145 REM PRINTS IN THE LARGE TEXT MODE
   THE RESULT OF W1 AND W2 IN DECIMAL
   AND IN BITS
150 ? #6;"or  RESULT  =";W1OW2:?" #6;,"
   "      ":WORD=W1OW2:GOSUB 180
155 REM PRINTS IN THE LARGE TEXT MODE
   THE RESULT OF W1 OR W2 IN DECIMAL
   AND IN BITS
160 ? #6;"eor RESULT  =";W1EW2:?" #6;,"
   "      ":WORD=W1EW2:GOSUB 180
165 REM PRINTS IN THE LARGE TEXT MODE
   THE RESULT OF W1 EOR W2 IN DECIMAL
   AND IN BITS
170 ? "TO RERUN TYPE RUN THEN PRESS
   RETURN";:END
175 REM PRINTED A MESSAGE TO THE USER
   IN THE SMALL TEXT WINDOW. ENDED THE
   PROGRAM.
180 ? #6;"BIT ";:FOR I=15 TO 0 STEP-1:
   X=USR(ADR(A$),INT(2^I),WORD):IF X
   THEN ? #6;1:GOTO 200
190 ? #6;0;
200 NEXT I:?" #6;"      ":RETURN
205 REM LINES 180-200 ARE A SUBROUTINE
   TO TAKE A WORD VALUE AND PRINT IT TO
   THE LARGE TEXT SCREEN IN BIT FORMAT.

```

```

1000 REM THE FOLLOWING LINES ARE TO BE
      USED TO CREATE THE STRINGS IN LINE
      50 AND ARE NOT NECESSARY TO THE
      PROGRAM.
1100 REM TYPE IN LINES 1200-1500. THEN
      TYPE GOTO 1200 & PRESS RETURN TO
      MAKE LINE 50.
1200 GRAPHICS 0:POKE 766,1:RESTORE
1300: ? :FOR I=1 TO 77:READ N:? CHR$(N);
      :NEXT I:POKE 766,0:END
1300 DATA 53,48,32,65,36,61,34,216,
104,104,133,213,104,133,212,104,37,
213,133,213,104,37,212,133,212,96,
34,58
1400 DATA 79,36,61,34,216,104,104,
133,213,104,133,212,104,5,213,133,
213,104,5,212,133,212,96,34,58
1500 DATA 69,36,61,34,216,104,104,
133,213,104,133,212,104,69,213,133,
213,104,69,212,133,212,96,34

```

MAY THE JOY AND PEACE OF CHRISTMAS
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ATTENTION PROGRAMMERS

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FROM YOUR EDITOR

R.Charles Sibthorpe

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Season's Greetings!

The next year will be a busy one. We are planning to host Taricon II with Atari being the largest attraction. Plans to invite as many vendors as we can accommodate (I heard a rumor that as many as 30 vendors will be asked to attend) to show us their latest and greatest products both software and hardware. Barb Franczyk goes into greater detail in this month's 'Taricon II' feature.

There is either a 1040ST or 520ST in the future for MACE. At the last meeting of the executive board it was resolved that MACE can now afford to purchase an ST. Tom Sturza will be providing more information on the raffle to offset this important addition to our club's inventory.

Our Disk Library is undergoing major changes and complete revision as promised by our new Disk Librarian Don Neff. As a result of the efforts of the Sturza family, who spearheaded the program, six (6) new additions to the Disk Library are now available. All are educational with subjects ranging from First-Aid to Math. Check them out!

This month we have four (4) type-in programs that we have received from other user groups that we exchange newsletters with and another from one of our members, Michael L. Clayton. Gordon Totty reviews "More Newsletters" in his article of the same title from newsletters that we have received from user's groups around the nation and the globe.

Well I don't want to be accused of being "wordy" so I'll say thank you to my staff John Leasia and William Schlick for without their help, this job would be 10x more difficult.

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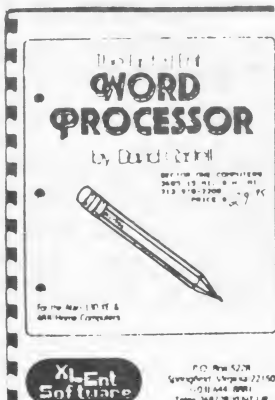
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RETURN OF THE SPHINX

By Hugh Mclean
Bunkys BBS

Nope! This is not a review of a "Quest for the Magic Orb in a Pyramid" game, but a rather disparaging personal commentary on the "parody" of icons.

About 5000 years ago, a proud and arrogant pharoah <Kafre> - wishing to display the glory of his deeds, resolved to build a timeless tribute of his mighty works by a monument that would weather storms, famine, and natural disasters, and out-last human flesh itself.

The monumental structure erected by this Pharoah still stands today at the entrance to the Valley of the Kings near Cairo, -and its called the "Sphinx". The head is of a Man and the Body is of a Lion. I wonder how many man-hours of effort it took to build this edifice, and what the Pharoah was really trying to say.

Egyptian Pharoahs, recorded their exploits in stone as "pictograms", or "Hieroglyphic" symbols. Each pictogram represented an allegorical message to the reader, who could understand what the "OBVIOUS" symbols meant. These symbols were chiseled into stone in a sequence that was supposed to tell a complete story. TAKing dictation was a definite problem. Can you picture a 5000 year old Leo Tolstoy writing "War and Peace" in Hieroglyphs with a hammer and chisel?

Further advances in writing came with the ancient Sumerians and other civilizations centered around Mesopotamia. Small impressions made with a wedged shaped stick were made in clay tablets, which were then "fired". These impressions came to be known as "Cuniform". They were one step away from an actual alphabet, and had about 300 characters - but a vast improvement over the Egyptian pictograms. One king of Assyria, called Ashurbanipal, collected these writings into a fairly large library, which has helped the archaeologist immensely. I can picture a

mailman carrying a 500 lb. mail-bag filled with clay tablet want ads from K-mart.

It has taken nearly 6000 years of language development to arrive at todays system. Now in the name of "progress", we are taking a giant leap backward to the pictures and symbols of the ancients. It has been said that one picture was worth 1000 words, - maybe one word is worth 1000 pictograms. For example, let me see you write your name with pictograms, so that you and you only are described among the 2 or 3 billion other people on planet earth.

Pictures are easy to understand! - right??? Actually it wasn't until 1798 that the Hieroglyphics (sacred carvings) were understood at all, and that because 3 languages were written on the "Rosetta Stone" describing the same event. Egyptians priests at Memphis issued the decree to honor king Ptolemy V in Hieroglyphics, Demotic, and Greek.

Have you ever gone to Cedar Point and taken a ride in one of the little cars that run around a track? You can steer them a little, and accelerate them a little, but the car is going to go on a certain path whether you want it to or not. To me the ST computer is a little like these Kiddy Cars. You can't get off the track very easily, and all you need to do is step on the gas...but if you want to go a different direction, you're out of luck. A rut is not a problem if you are headed in the same direction anyway, but it becomes very aggravating when you want to go a different direction and can't.

It seems that everyone is using icons today - from traffic signs to copy machines to computers. I defy anyone who has never used the copier at work to explain what the operator control symbols

mean. A simple word like "ok", "paper", "jam", "ink", etc. would be quite adequate and easily understood. I marvel at some of the symbols that are used...There is the coffee creamer on the dash of my car, along with a bullet, a liberty bell, and an airplane propeller (well, that's what they look like to me). Maybe we are trying to make it too easy for people to avoid learning how to read in the first place.

Why do I need icons anyway? The first thing I do with the desktop is change the icons to text and change the resolution to medium...I bet most of you do too.

Talk about SOUR GRAPES. The ST is by far the most disappointing computer system that I have purchased to date. (I have purchased 4 Atari computers). I know, I'm the only one who thinks so, but I think icons and mice are sales gimmicks to "con" inexperienced computer users into the "STATE OF THE ART", "USER FRIENDLY", "POWER WITHOUT THE PRICE", atmosphere. The ST would be much more appealing to me if the GEM dos was removed, a UNIX operating system installed, along with an IBM simulator, a really good BASIC, and an operating system function to let the user transfer data from single density to double density. The professional programmer that uses "c" or "PASCAL" every day at work may enjoy puttering around with his ST - but what about the non-professional programmer who doesn't know ASSEMBLY, C, or PASCAL, but who knows enough BASIC to make his computer functional by developing programs to fit his specific needs. I have had a lot of enjoyment writing my own programs to print calendars, calibrate running watches, teach my kids math, calculate aerobic information, catalog my disks, print labels, etc.etc. I have at least 6 different word processing programs, but the one I use the most, is the one I wrote myself..To me G.E.M. stands for "GIGANTIC EXECUTIVE MISTAKE". I believe one of the reasons the 8 bit machines have been so popular, is the large number of "non-professional" programmers that have created, adapted, modified, and

cannibalized BASIC programs to fit specific needs, and in the interest of PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE. The advent of the home computer is so new and powerful that its usefulness has hardly begun to be explored. Computers now, are where automobiles were before expressways were invented. Personally, I like the idea of exploring new ways to make computers really practical. I waited for months to purchase an ST,- anticipating new and better uses for the more powerful 16 bit machine with 80 columns of readable text. How disappointing for me to discover that instead of a newer, more versatile and powerful tool, I have purchased a machine that requires a "Tom Hudson" mentality to program. I know that 90% of the M.A.C.E. readers will violently disagree with me, and wave the grand old Atari flag over their ST, but - hey -, if you've written any really functional, practical, and unique programs with your ST, give my BBS a call and encourage me before I scuttle the whole ST system and start looking for something else...



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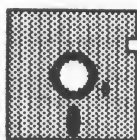
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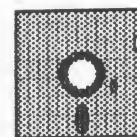
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NEW ADDITIONS TO THE M.A.C.E. DISK LIBRARY



By Tom Sturza

Over the years, M.A.C.E. member families have requested that our Public Domain Disk Library contain as many Educational programs as possible. Since submissions to the library were received at many different times, these programs could be found spread across many different diskettes.

When Don Neff became our Disk Librarian, I asked him if he would like me (and my family) to consolidate the Educational programs onto one set of diskettes. Don said, "Sure!" So, Kathy, Steven and I went to work.

Educational Disks 1-6 are the result of our labors. We made a few changes to some of the programs, mostly to make them more "User Friendly". We also added a new feature: A "README.TXT" file. When the "README.BAS" program is run, the user is provided with a brief description of each program on the diskette. These descriptions can either be read on the monitor or TV screen, or routed to the printer. Also listed are any special requirements, such as if the program requires Joysticks.

A Special thank you goes to Sandy and Larry Mills, who Beta-tested these disks after we had consolidated them. A few minor problems were uncovered and hopefully there won't be others.

Listed below are the programs that you will find on each of these consolidated Educational Diskettes. They will be available either at General Meetings or by mail order (membership number required). [We do make one exception to the "members only" policy of our mail order service. We will follow the lead of J.A.C.S. and sell selected diskettes from our library to other Atari User Groups. Other User Groups should send their orders on User Group Stationery.] The charge for mail order

diskettes is \$5 per diskette, with a \$1 charge for postage and handling on the entire order. All mail orders should be sent to:

M.A.C.E.
P.O. Box 2785
Southfield, MI 48037

DISKETTE E-1

-DOS.SYS/DUP.SYS - Version 2.5
AUTORUN.SYS
MENU - Special M.A.C.E. MENU
program that lets you
run either BASIC or BINARY
language programs.
README.BAS - Provides
descriptions of programs
found on this diskette.
PREMATH.BAS COUNT.BAS
TUNEFUN.BAS ABCTRAIN.BAS
ODDMAN.BAS HOWMANY.BAS
OLDMAC.BAS SIMON.BAS
CHARSET1.DAT CHARSET2.DAT
RECORD.DAT README.TXT

DISKETTE E-2

DOS.SYS/DUP.SYS - Version 2.5
AUTORUN.SYS, MENU, README.BAS
ALPHBLST.BAS NUMBERS.BAS
PLAYBACK.BAS PLAYBACK.DOC
WRITER.BAS COUNTING.BAS
MATCHPIC.BAS ADDITION.BAS
COLRTYPE.BAS CHANGE.BAS
ALPHBLOX.BAS ADDIT.BAS
ANIMATH.BAS README.TXT

DISKETTE E-3

DOS.SYS/DUP.SYS - Version 2.5
AUTORUN.SYS, MENU, README.BAS
STATES.BAS MATHFUN.BAS
KEYPANIC.BAS MULTIPLY.BAS
FUNCTION.BAS SPEECH.BAS
LIGHT.BAS STARS.BAS
SPEECH.DAT README.TXT

DISKETTE E-4

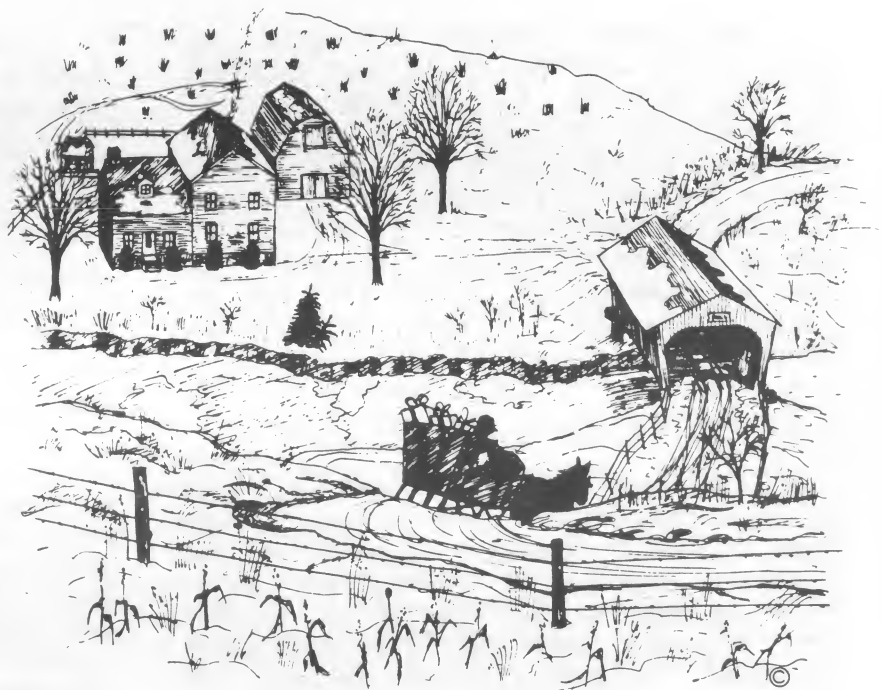
DOS.SYS/DUP.SYS - Version 2.5
 AUTORUN.SYS, MENU, README.BAS
 SCIQUIZ.BAS FLAGS.BAS
 SUBTRACT.BAS MULTMATH.BAS
 TYPING.BAS GEOQUIZ.BAS
 ZHRCON.BAS ARITHTRX.BAS
 CHORDPGM.BAS SPELLING.BAS
 COLORMIX.BAS WORDADV.BAS
 README.TXT

DISKETTE E-5

DOS.SYS/DUP.SYS - Version 2.5
 AUTORUN.SYS, MENU, README.BAS
 LEMONADE.BAS MATHMAGI.BAS
 SIMON2.BAS TESTER.BAS
 WEATHER.BAS SPEEDRDG.BAS
 TRIVIA.BAS GUESSNUM.BAS
 *.PIC files README.TXT

DISKETTE E-6

DOS.SYS/DUP.SYS - Version 2.5
 AUTORUN.SYS, MENU, README.BAS
 WORLDCAP.BAS MORSE.BAS
 MEMORY.BAS MULTIPLY.BAS
 MATHROUT.BAS FIRSTAID.BAS
 MATHWARS.BAS ROMANS.BAS
 README.TXT



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish you a Merry Christmas
 We wish you a merry Christmas
 We wish you a Merry Christmas
 And a happy New Year!

Good tidings to you where ever you are:
 Good tidings for Christmas,
 And A happy New Year!



IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon a midnight clear,
 that glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth,
 to touch their harps of gold:

'Peace on the earth,
 goodwill to men from heav'ns all
 gracious King,'

The world in solemn stillness lay,
 to hear the angels sing.



FROM YOUR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

This month I thought I'd give you some idea of what our clubs mail consists of, from 10/21/86 to 11/14/86 M.A.C.E. has received the following mail; 49 newsletters from around the world (about 3/4 of the mail), 12 pieces of junk mail (including "World War II in Action", a series of books!), 12 pcs. of mail for Paul W. (Membership), 7 pcs. for Don N. (Disk Librarian), 5 pcs. for Tom S. (President) Tom also gets the junk mail! 1 pc. for Chuck N. (Vice President), and 1 pc. for Charles S. (Journal Editor).

The newsletters are logged in, then given to members who care to read through them in search of something good for our Journal. The list of newsletters we've received goes to Paul Wheeler who updates the database used for the newsletter exchange program (also called the "Friends List". For those interested, Paul uses Data Perfect by LJK for both the Friends List and membership. Prior to the General Meeting night, Paul runs mailing labels for the entire membership and user groups. After the meeting, the Journals are mailed to the members and user groups. If a user group fails to send us their newsletter for three months, we stop sending them ours. A newsletter maybe something fancy, like "Current Notes" (Washington Area A.C.E.) or a few folded pieces of paper.

I generally pick-up the mail on Tuesdays and Thursdays during normal business hours, in case we've received any parcels (i.e. Atari "Planetarium" & "Star Raiders II", Epyx 500XJ joystick, Kyan Pascal (8-bit)).

For those of you who would like to see LJK make software for the 'ST', contact them at; LJK, 7852 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis MO 63119, (314)962-1855. Tell them your a MACE member!

Avalon Hill has released "Dr. Ruth's, Game of Good Sex", but not for the Atari! Write them at; Avalon Hill Game Co., 4517 Harford Road, Baltimore MD 21214, (301) 254-5300.



SHOPPER GUIDE

In most of the December issues of national Atari orientated magazines, you will find articles called 'BEST BUYS' or 'SHOPPER GUIDES' just in time for X'mas and they cover computers, printers, modems, software both business and games, ribbons, etc.. But what I found to be most interesting, was that in all the articles, the one gift that was voted the BEST gift one could give or receive was a membership in a Users group. Please take note. Your membership chairman Paul.

PS: HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all.



P.C. PURSUIT

Written by Paul Fields

R.A.A.U.G. Secretary

Rewritten with permission by Keith Schrag

For the past month I have been fortunate enough to be a BETA-TESTER for GTE Telenet's P.C. PURSUIT. P.C. PURSUIT, in 25 words or less, is:

A computer-to-computer long distance service personal computer users can access during non-business hours.

Now, that doesn't even start to tell the story, so read on!

GTE has been in the business of selling communications facility for some time. They, along with AT&T have been pioneers in ways to ship data over long distances so that data transfers are becoming increasingly cleaner and faster. They have entry points to their system in 15 major cities already and they are expanding in 1986 by at least a factor of 2. GTE is second only to Ma Bell in the long-haul communications business, employing cable, microwave and satellite technologies.

With this niche in the data communications market, GTE has sold its services to businesses, small and large, to transfer account information, market statistics, funds, and other instruments of corporate operations. Most corporate business takes place between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. So, some enterprising executives at GTE came upon a way for GTE to increase its revenues and get its name out into a segment of the marketplace that was, heretofore, relatively unfamiliar with it, the personal enthusiast.

For a mere \$25 monthly, any "pc" user can sign on to the GTE system and take full advantage of their network that reaches from coast-to-coast. The only catch: P.C. PURSUIT, the home computer network, is operational only during NON-BUSINESS hours: 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. local time, on weekdays, and 24 hours a day on weekends.

The area codes/cities available to PC PURSUIT users are limited to those cities where GTE currently operates a data communications node. [A node, in layman's terms, is a junction of one link of a system to another. A node, in the sense of a communication system, is analogous to a switch over stop on an airline or bus line.]

Those cities and there area codes are: Boston (617), New York City (212), Newark (201), Philadelphia (215), Washington D.C. (202 or 703), Atlanta (404), Chicago (312), Detroit (313), Dallas (214), Houston (713), Denver (303), Los Angeles (213), San Francisco (415), Seattle (206), and of course, our own San Antonio (512).

P.C. PURSUIT enables you to call bulletin boards all over the United States. If you're in academics, you might be able to get the permission to access the data bases of other universities and colleges. For the executive on the road, rather than carry a bulky luggable "portable" computer, or an expensive lap-top PC, a simple dumb-terminal and mini-modem would be enough to call from a hotel room back to his company computer and to do report or order processing. The applications are limited only by a user's imagination.

I am even trying to talk my relatives (out of town) into buying a cheap modem and something like an old Atari 400 just so we can use P.C. PURSUIT to "chat" with each other rather than using Ma Bell. We can even "talk" longer, and, if needed, we could even capture and print out portions of conversations, like important vacation itineraries, recipe exchanges, a cousin's birthday or anything else you'd normally need a pen and notepad to record.

Most P.C. PURSUIT users, though,

will probably stick to bulletin boards. That is great for the BBS community which has seen a decline in serious users in the past few months. One of the reasons for that decline, in my estimation, is that users are bored with the same fare day after day. Now, with the thousands of BBS's literally at their fingertips, there is never a need to be bored. If you should get bored with say, San Antonio's BBS, you can always call Denver's or any one on the network.

Additionally, the cross-flow of information among Atari users should become even better. Almost every large user group has their official or unofficial BBS. Who knows, maybe the day of mailing each others' newsletters are drawing to a close. At this price, we can all afford to transfer the highlights electronically!

Users of San Antonio Atari Exchange, my own BBS, have already benefitted greatly from P.C. PURSUIT. I have called other boards in almost all cities and traded programs with them. SAAE's users have and are now able to download software that we here in San Antonio would have never seen otherwise and vice versa for users in Denver, Atlanta, ect. and it is a lot cheaper the calling DELPHI or COMPUSEVER!

Do I recommend P.C.PURSUIT? You guessed it! As a long time SysOP, and an even longer modem user, I highly commend the service. I foresee this service bringing Atari users into one big Atari village (to paraphrase Doctor Sagen) instead of a loose network of users groups here and there across the country. P.C. PURSUIT has so much potential. And, you can't beat the price!

Their toll-free customer service number, should you want to apply for the service or just get further information, is 1-800-336-0437. CALL TODAY!





 Christmas

 Season

TARICON II

by: B.J. Franczyk

Well Taricon II is moving right along and it is fun to see it taking shape. As I explained last month we are currently in Phase I of our planning. This phase includes identifying jobs and determining a working time schedule. We are looking for people to help with the following:

1. Publicity
2. Special Promotions
3. Door Prizes
4. Seminars
5. Legal Aid
6. Volunteers to help vendors
7. Video
8. Electrician
9. Security
10. Treasurer

Currently, we are working to put together a vendor packet. We would like to have it completed and ready to send after the first of the year. If you are interested in working on this committee we need people to help coordinate the information and type. Anyone with expertise in typesetting is really welcome. Ray Stakenas is currently working on a vendor mailing list and I am sure he could use some help.

We are looking for some terrific letterhead and logo. For this we are appealing to those with artistic talent. Let me remind you we do have a contest so submit your ideas A.S.A.P. Jerry Cross has made some neat looking return address labels to get us started. Be sure to talk to him if you can help.

Thanks to Walter Ray we have a tentative floor plan that includes 62 booths for vendors and 1 for Atari (Atari's is the biggest). We also have room for a concession stand. Besides exhibitors we need folks to do mailings, follow up phone calls and assist our vendors in various ways (set up, man booth, drive, etc.). We also need an electrician that could bring electricity

to a booth should additional power be required. We are looking for a concession stand with good refreshments. So make your recommendations. Walt is working on the cost for vendor booth with Ray Stakenas and would welcome input from you out there.

We have a User Group Coordinator, Jerry Cross that will need help with mailings and follow up. He is currently working on a mailing list and putting together information for a mailing in January.

Al Hureski has obtained support from Adray Appliance. They have verbally agreed to print the Taricon tickets. He is also working on gathering info for advertising. Good work Al!!!

Brian Teets researched the feasibility of an 800 number and Watts line thru the phone company. While this does not appear to be a luxury we can readily afford--maybe someday. If anyone has information on time sharing an 800 number let us know.

Tony Grey is checking insurance companies, their rates and coverage. Please see Tony if you have insurance knowledge.

Henry Zarski is busy obtaining ad information and rates from local newspapers. He is working on the advertising budget and sure could use some help.

Aaron Quantz is maintaining a volunteer mailing list. Please get your name on this list today.

Ken Gutowski is our Recording Secretary and he is doing a terrific job. I really couldn't get along without him. He also is working on our time table chart. So keep him posted as to when you start a project and the time anticipated to complete it.

Now is the time to get involved. Find a job that interests you. We have many people working right now and the effort is distributed so that no one is over worked. We are enjoying productive business meetings and welcome all of you. So come get on board. Please look for the volunteer form, now readily available at meetings or by calling me. Completing this form allows you to be a part of the TARICON II success.

Remember I told you if you hear or see any information in the media you should let me know when, where and what you heard or saw? Well, CONGRATULATIONS Aaron Quantz yours was first correct response and you will get the first two free passes to TARICON II. Aaron was the first to tell me of the notice that appeared in Analog Dec. 86. Don't be discouraged those of you who didn't win. I enjoyed so many responses that I guess we could run this on a monthly basis. It's nice to know you guys and gals are out there.

As time goes on we will be asking for other things---so keep looking to help. Thanks to all of you for the many suggestions, letters, phone calls and the work from our volunteers. If you are working with us and your name does not appear here please don't feel slighted. Until we get some much needed info from Atari we can not disclose the other work that is pending. As always your efforts are truly appreciated.

Last but not least, I would like to apologize to the ST SIG and the user group MAGIC for scheduling our TARICON Committee meeting the first Tuesday of the month. Unfortunately, this conflicts with your meetings. Both groups offered to help and we are grateful. Please understand we had to choose the only night that was convenient for the majority and still pace our meetings with the M.A.C.E. general meeting and the M.A.C.E. Board of Directors meeting. We welcome and value your input and hope that you will continue to offer your support.

So KEEP THOSE CARDS AND LETTERS COMING IN and plan to join us the first Tuesday every month at Denny's in Southfield at 7:30 P.M.



SUPPORT is a TWO-WAY STREET

By Doug Miller

For the past few months I've been coming to the MACE meetings and I've been watching as we let our club deteriorate. It seems like every month everyone just sits back and listens as the officers plead for their support. Most obviously think that the other guy will pick up the slack, and that everything will be ok. DON'T COUNT ON IT!!! Apathy is additive. It's a lot easier to sit back and do nothing, than to put forth some effort to make MACE a better group. But if we all continue to ignore the situation, we may soon have to find something else to do on the third Tuesday of the month.

Personally, I don't want to see that happen, so I've come up with a few suggestions that I think can help to make for a better users group. After reading this article, see if maybe you can find a few minutes to support MACE, so that it can continue to support you.

REVIEWS AND YOU

Anyone that uses a computer can write a review. Everyone has both hardware and software that they use. A review is basically just an opinion of the product. What is it? Who makes it? How much does it cost? What are it's good points/bad points? Are there other similar programs that are better/worse?

That's all there is to it. And it only takes a few minutes with a word processor to type one up. So there is really no reason why everyone couldn't write a review for printing in the Journal. Why not try it, you may find you like having your name in print.

USER ADVICE NUMBERS

I have to admit that this is not my own idea. I've been reading some of the other user group journals that we receive in the exchange program, and I found this

particular idea in the journal from the Washington DC Area ACE.

They have what they refer to as the W.A.A.C.E. Hotlist. This is a list of the various members and their phone numbers, that are willing to help others with problems that they have in that members particular area of expertise.

Some of the categories that are covered are: DISK DRIVES, PRINTERS, LANGUAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WORD PROCESSING, SPREAD SHEETS, DATABASES, ADD-ONS, DOS's, CHIPS, and MUSIC.

Each member lists an area that they are willing to help with (some are listed for more than one), then anyone that needs help can call for advice. I think this is an excellent idea, and I personally would like to suggest to the officers that we consider initiating this policy.

SOFTWARE DONATIONS

If you are like me, and I'm sure most of you are, then you probably have some software laying around the house that you no longer use. Why not donate it to the group? It can then be used for demonstration, it can be used by the club for review, and it could be sold by the club during our swap meet to add to the club's account, which brings me to the next suggestion.

SWAP MEETS

Every year MACE holds a swap night for it's users, so that they can buy, sell, or trade both hardware and software that they no longer need. If you missed the swap meet in June, then you missed out on some good buys. The only problem with an annual swap night is that those of us that want to buy or sell things now

(Continued on page 29)

WUN for ALL and ALL for WUN

by F.P. Nagle

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CURRENT NOTES and W.A.A.C.E.

by Doug Miller

Just what is WUN?

Who are the members?

How do we join?

Just a few questions you may have on reading the title.

Let me introduce myself.

I'm Frank Nagle with the Bay Area Atari Users Group (BAAUG) in Sunnyvale, CA. I'm also the Interim Vice-Chairman of WUN, the Atari Worldwide Users Network.

What is WUN?

WUN was started during the end of 1985 by ANTIC magazine to fill the need for a worldwide network of Atari users. Over the course of a few months time, the reins were passed from ANTIC to User Group representatives to carry on with the idea and concept. Elected as chairman was Joe Waters of the Washington DC Area ACE, and editor of the famous CURRENT NOTES newsletter. Joe and I were elected interim officers by user groups and business representatives from around the country to get WUN off the ground.

Who Are The Members?/How Do We Join?

If you are reading this article in an Atari User Group newsletter, then you are a member and probably didn't even know it. Membership, which is free, is open to any registered Atari user group. If you are reading this in some other newsletter or magazine, then joining is as simple as registering your group with Atari.

OK, WHAT DO THEY WANT NOW?

As interim elected officers, our duty is to provide for an orderly transition to a full elected board for WUN. For this task we need your support

(no not money, just a little time). As the Marines would say, we are looking for a few good groups to be nominated as WUN Board members. Do you know someone that fits the bill? Are they active in the Atari community in your area? Do they have some time to "spare" for WUN activities? If you do know someone like this, why not nominate them for board membership?

WHAT CAN WUN DO FOR YOU?

Late breaking news, disk of the month, etc. etc. etc. You've heard it all before. BUT WAIT! WUN has on-line monthly meetings on Compuserve in the ATARI 16 SIG. Present are members from around the country, as well as representatives from many of the companies supporting the Atari line of products. It's here that you can "talk" to them and present YOUR views and ask the questions asked of you by your group members. That's what I call late breaking news.

Disk of the Month--I know a lot of groups have this, but what about the overall quality. We at WUN are working to put together the BEST OF THE BEST! It may not be a disk a month, but we promise to give you the QUALITY YOU DESERVE! Currently in the works are a Word Processing Disk for the ST, an upgraded, enhanced version of ST Writer being prepared by a user group, a public domain accessories disk and a series of graphics disks so you don't have to spend a lot of hard-earned dollars downloading from various BBS's around the country. You can help here also, by providing your quality programs for distribution on a national basis.

HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST US?

Well, the price is right. 5-1/4" disks for the 8-bit line will run

\$5.00 (each group only has to buy one for their own library), and 3-1/2" disks will run \$8.00 (again, you only have to buy one). Once you have purchased the public domain disk, you are free to add it to your library of disks for sale to members. You support WUN AND YOUR group. Disk sales help to raise the needed cash to keep groups going and growing.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

For membership registration, contact Sandi Austin, Atari User Group Coordinator, at Atari Corp., 1196 Borregas Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA. 94088.

For ordering the Disk of the Month - (enclose payment please) - Bay Area Atari Users Group, c/o Frank Nagle, P.O. Box 50439, Palo Alto, CA. 94303.

The first disk will be available by the time you read this, and should be an indication of the type of quality disks to be offered in the future.

(Continued from page 27)

have to wait till next year to do it at the group meeting. I think we should have an area set aside for resale on a monthly basis, to make it easier for MACE members to acquire the items they are looking for.

FINITO

There are many other things that can be done to return MACE to the status it once held. We were once the largest and best group in the country, and we can be again. All it takes is a little user participation. And please take note of the 'u' in user. Don't wait for the other guy to do his part. Be a leader and show the other users that you know support is a two-way street.

Important Dates - 1987 -

General Meeting

January 20
February 17
March 17
April 21
May 19
June 16
July 21
August 18
September 15
October 20
November 17
December 15

Officers Meeting *

January 9
February 6
March 6
April 10
May 8
June 5
July 10
August 7
September 4
October 9
November 6
December 4

* The deadline for Journal advertising and article submissions will be the officers' meeting.

**TAKE THE
LIBERTY
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CHECK YOUR DRIVE SPEED

The program listing that follows was reprinted from The Newsletter of the San Diego Computer Enthusiasts, July 1985.

If you don't have enough to worry about you might type this one; run it, and worry if your drive speed is not in the "safe" range. Or, you might not type this program to try it and then you can worry about whether or not you should have! In any event, "speed kills" and you'll want to "bring 'em back alive" ... your disks, that is.

```

5 REM DISK DRIVE SPEED CHECKER
10 REM DESIRABLE VALUE IS 288
20 DIM Y$(20)
30 OPEN #1,4,0,"K:"
40 GRAPHICS 18:SETCOLOR 2,0,0: ? #6: ?
#6;"*** SPEED-O-DISK ***"
50 ? #6: ? #6: ? #6;"DRIVE# TO BE
CHECKED ?":GET #1,Y:Y=Y-48
60 IF Y<1 OR Y>4 THEN ? #6;"TRY
AGAIN!":FOR T=1 TO 500:NEXT T:GOTO 40
70 IF Y=1 THEN Y$="D:*. *"
80 IF Y=2 THEN Y$="D2:*. *"
90 IF Y=3 THEN Y$="D3:*. *"
100 IF Y=4 THEN Y$="D4:*. *"
110 TRAP 120:XIO 3,#2,4,0,Y$
130 ? #6: ? #6;"INSERT ANY DISK IN DRIVE #

```

```

";Y: ? #6: ? #6;"HIT ANY KEY TO RUN":GET
#1,Q
140 GRAPHICS 18:POKE 752,255
150 SETCOLOR 0,8,10
160 SETCOLOR 2,2,2:SETCOLOR 4,0,0
170 POKE 16,64:POKE 53774,64:POKE 580,0
180 ? #6;"* DISK SPEED SHOULD BE '288'
(+4)*"
196 ? #6;"HIT RESET TO END "
200 RESTORE 300:FOR C=1536 TO 1627
210 READ D
220 POKE C,D
230 NEXT C
240 POKE 1537,Y
250 A=USR(1536)
260 B=PEEK(1662)+PEEK(1663)*256
270 I=INT(24*3600/B+0.5)
280 Z=Z+1:IF Z<2 THEN GOTO 250
290 POSITION 8,5: ? #6: ? #6:I:GOTO 250
300 DATA 169,0,141,1,3,141,11,3,
169,82,141,2,3,169,62,141,5,3,32,
83,228,169,0,141,4,3,141,128,6,141
310 DATA 10,3,141,129,6,141,130,6,
133,20,133,19,133,18,32,83,228,166,
20,138,237,128,6,142,128,6,16,2,
105,255
320 DATA 174,129,6,201,18,48,1,232,
232,138,201,24,16,6,142,129,6,76,
44,6,165,19,141,127,6,165,20,141,
126,6,104,96
330 END

```



HAPPY CHANUKAH

[illegible]

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